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October 17, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced
911 Emergency Calling Systems
CC Docket No. 94-102
Letter Comments on Public Notice, DA 97-2751

Dear Mr. Caton:

PrimeCo Personal Communications, L.P. ("PrimeCo"),¹ hereby submits an original and four copies of letter comments in response to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's ("Bureau") Public Notice of October 3, 1997.²

The Bureau seeks additional comment on the *ex parte* presentation jointly filed by organizations representing the wireless industry and public safety community ("Joint Letter"). The Joint Letter requested that the Commission revise its rules governing wireless enhanced 911 ("E-911") service to eliminate the Section 20.18(b) reference to "code identification;" to reflect

¹ PrimeCo is the broadband A/B Block PCS licensee or is the general partner/majority owner in the licensee in the following MTAs: Chicago, Milwaukee, Richmond-Norfolk, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston, New Orleans-Baton Rouge, Jacksonville, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Orlando, Miami, and Honolulu.

² *Public Notice, Additional Comment Sought in Wireless Enhanced 911 Reconsideration Proceeding Regarding Rules and Schedules*, CC Docket No. 94-102, DA 97-2751 (released Oct. 3, 1997).

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PRIMECO PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS, L.P.

Comments in CC Docket No. 94-102

October 17, 1997

Page 2 of 3

that the 911 authority's choice of receiving all or only successfully validated 911 calls may not be possible until Phase II location technology is in place; and to extend by 18 months the implementation deadline for TTY/TDD compatibility.

PrimeCo has actively participated in industry-based discussions on this matter through its participation in the Wireless E911 Coalition and supports the rule changes requested in the Joint Letter filing.³ The Joint Letter largely reiterates many of the concerns expressed in the Coalition's earlier filings, including the problematic use of "code identification" to determine a wireless carrier's basic 911 obligations; the limited capabilities of PSAPs to choose the types of calls they will receive; and the technical obstacles that must be overcome in order to support TTY/TDD technology over digital wireless systems.⁴ The record clearly supports the rule amendments and compliance schedule changes proposed in the Joint Letter.

The Ad Hoc Alliance for Public Access to 911 ("Ad Hoc") opposes the Joint Letter, contending that the proposal is a "transparent effort by certain wireless carriers to restore the practice of blocking emergency calls." PrimeCo urges the Commission to reject Ad Hoc's unsupported and inflammatory claim. The requested changes enjoy the support of the very emergency services associations whose members are charged with the obligation of providing emergency services to the public. It is clear from the record in this proceeding that the Joint Letter request is based on the engineering realities of 911 service; as discussed in the Coalition's July 10th *Ex Parte* Presentation, wireless switches today simply are incapable of passing all 911 calls from code-identified handsets.⁵

The Joint Letter represents a consensus approach that eliminates code identification as an obstacle to E911 implementation, and the revisions to the Commission's rules proposed therein should be adopted. Also, as discussed in the Joint Letter, industry and public safety organizations have initiated discussions to resolve technical and operational issues relating to E911 implementation, and the Commission has directed that Ad Hoc itself participate in this process. Given the technical complexities confronting the industry and public safety organizations, any suggestion of industry stonewalling on E911 implementation should be rejected.

³ See Wireless E-911 Coalition, Request for Extension of Time to Implement E911/TTY Compatibility Requirements for Wireless Operators, CC Docket No. 94-102, filed August 29, 1997; Wireless E-911 Coalition, *Ex Parte* Presentation filed July 10, 1997, in CC Docket No. 94-102 ("July 10 *Ex Parte* Presentation").

⁴ See July 10 *Ex Parte* Presentation at 1-5, 10; TTY Extension Request at 3-5.

⁵ July 10 *Ex Parte* Presentation at 10.

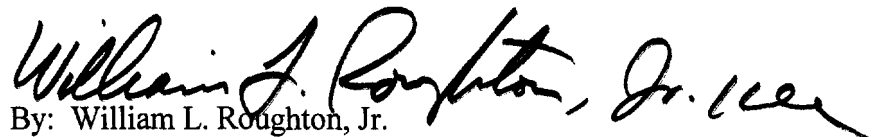
PRIMECO PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS, L.P.
Comments in CC Docket No. 94-102
October 17, 1997
Page 3 of 3

The National Association for the Deaf does not oppose an extension of the deadline for TTY compatibility implementation, but advocates a nine-month extension rather than the eighteen month extension proposed by industry and public safety organizations in the Joint Letter. PrimeCo is a broadband PCS provider utilizing CDMA technology. Simply put, there is no TTY equipment currently being manufactured that is compatible with PrimeCo's network. Given that technical standards for digital TTY technologies have not yet been determined, PrimeCo has been advised by manufacturers that they are simply incapable of bringing products to market in the 9 month period suggested by NAD. Unlike manufacturers, however, PrimeCo is a CMRS licensee subject to (and liable for failure to comply with) the current November 30 deadline for TTY capability implementation. *See* 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(b); *Order*, DA 97-2119 (rel. Sept. 30, 1997). PrimeCo and other service providers utilizing digital technologies are currently coordinating their efforts to develop standards to promote TTY compliance, and the record supports the requested extension of the implementation schedule.

For the reasons discussed above and in the Coalition's earlier filings, PrimeCo supports the rule and implementation schedule changes proposed in the Joint Letter.

Sincerely,

PRIMECO PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS, L.P.


By: William L. Roughton, Jr.
Associate General Counsel